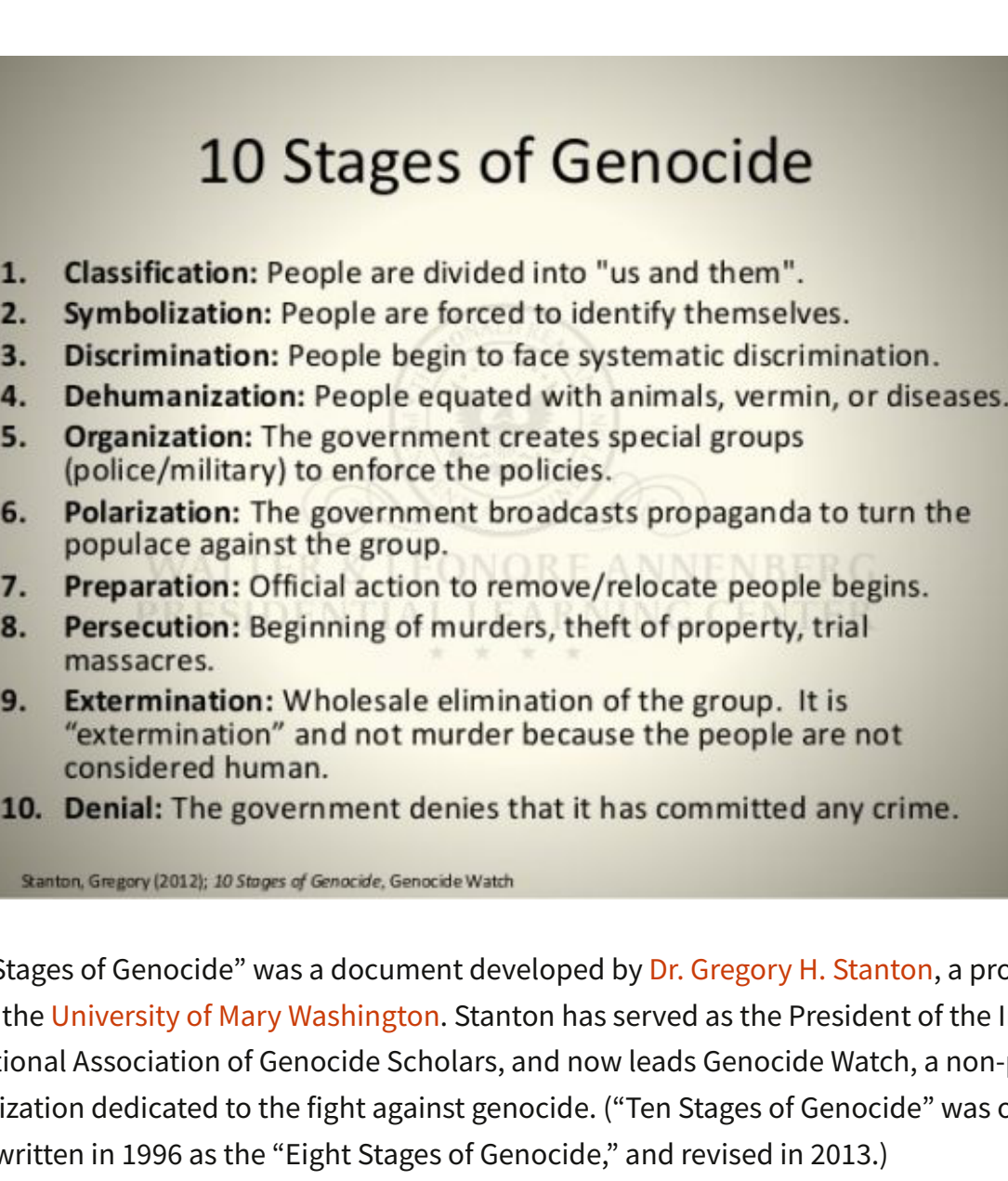
ZOLUCK
— UP TO —
50% OFF
shop now

Summary of 10 Stages of Genocide (and the USA today)

September 11, 2017 Genocide



10 Stages of Genocide

1. **Classification:** People are divided into "us and them".
2. **Symbolization:** People are forced to identify themselves.
3. **Discrimination:** People begin to face systematic discrimination.
4. **Dehumanization:** People equated with animals, vermin, or diseases.
5. **Organization:** The government creates special groups (police/military) to enforce the policies.
6. **Polarization:** The government broadcasts propaganda to turn the populace against the group.
7. **Preparation:** Official action to remove/relocate people begins.
8. **Persecution:** Beginning of murders, theft of property, trial massacres.
9. **Extermination:** Wholesale elimination of the group. It is "extermination" and not murder because the people are not considered human.
10. **Denial:** The government denies that it has committed any crime.

Stanton, Gregory (2012); *10 Stages of Genocide*, Genocide Watch

"Ten Stages of Genocide" was a document developed by Dr. Gregory H. Stanton, a professor at the University of Mary Washington. Stanton has served as the President of the International Association of Genocide Scholars, and now leads Genocide Watch, a non-profit organization dedicated to the fight against genocide. ("Ten Stages of Genocide" was originally written in 1996 as the "Eight Stages of Genocide," and revised in 2013.)

> "Ten Stages of Genocide" is a formula for how a society can engage in genocide. Genocide cannot be committed by an individual or small group; rather, it takes the cooperation of a large number of people and the state. The genocidal process starts with prejudice that continues to grow. By knowing the stages of genocide, citizens are better equipped to identify the warning signs and stop the process from continuing.[1]

Stanton notes that:

> Genocide is a process that develops in ten stages that are predictable but not inexorable. At each stage, preventive measures can stop it. The process is not linear. Stages may occur simultaneously. Logically, later stages must be preceded by earlier stages. But all stages continue to operate throughout the process.[2]

Reflections on Where We Stand in America Today

The USA has committed war crimes, engaged in unlawful torture, annihilated civilian populations, supported brutal dictators, and overthrown democratically elected governments. The USA certainly committed genocide on the Native Americans and came close to doing so to African-Americans. So there is no reason to think that won't commit more genocide in the future. Let's look at where we stand on each stage in America today regarding various groups.

1. Classification – The "us vs. them" mentality is everywhere–conservatives vs. liberals; evangelicals vs. secularists; rural vs urban; whites vs. African-Americans, Hispanics; Native Americans; Asian Americans; etc. SUCH CLASSIFICATION OCCURS IN THE USA, AND IS INCREASING WITH THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION.

2. Symbolization – Certain groups–especially African-Americans, Native Americans and Hispanics—are forced to identify themselves with papers to document residency, with identification to vote, etc. Conclusion – SUCH SYMBOLIZATION OCCURS IN THE USA, AND IS INCREASING WITH THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION.

3. Discrimination – Discrimination against certain groups is rampant—especially of the above ones plus the LGBTQ community. Conclusion – SUCH DISCRIMINATION OCCURS IN THE USA, AND IS INCREASING WITH THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION.

4. Dehumanization – This occurs regarding the above groups. Hate propaganda and hate speech is ubiquitous in the media consumed by millions. Conclusion – SUCH DEHUMANIZATION OCCURS IN THE USA AND IS INCREASING WITH THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION.

5. Organization – State-backed police brutality, and an increasingly biased Department of Justice, especially against the above groups, is well-known in the USA. Militias motivated by hate are on the rise. Conclusion – SUCH ORGANIZATION OCCURS IN THE USA, AND IS INCREASING WITH THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION.

6. Polarization – Right-wing media broadcasts anger, outrage, and hate. Conclusion – SUCH POLARIZATION OCCURS IN THE USA, AND IS INCREASING WITH THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION.

LAST FOUR STAGES HAVE NOT BEEN REACHED IN THE USA.

(**** UPDATE – JULY 2019 **** – Stage 7 has begun at our southern border. Denial of asylum, children in cages, etc. All of which violates international law. The irony is that: 1) our country desperately needs young immigrants; and 2) conditions in Central America result in large part from American intervention there—especially related to the war on drugs.)

7. PREPARATION: Official action to remove/relocate people. Conclusion – SUCH PREPARATION OCCURS TO SOME EXTENT, MOSTLY REGARDING HISPANICS AND AFRICAN-AMERICANS, BUT IS INCREASING WITH THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION.

8. PERSECUTION: Murders, theft of property, segregation into ghettos. Conclusion – SUCH PERSECUTION OCCURS TO SOME EXTENT MOSTLY REGARDING HISPANICS AND AFRICAN-AMERICANS, BUT IS INCREASING WITH THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION.

9. EXTERMINATION: THIS STAGE HAS NOT BEEN REACHED.

10. DENIAL: THIS STAGE HAS NOT BEEN REACHED.

Reflections on Where We Are Going in the USA

I have written previously about the possibility of civil war in America today. As for the presence of hate speech directed toward certain groups—especially African-Americans, Hispanics; Native Americans; Asian-Americans; LGBTQ persons and women—the trends are ominous.

There is no way to predict where this will lead. Perhaps we are going through an especially ugly phase brought about by technology's impact on employment, maybe we are just experiencing a particularly bad political moment, or maybe we haven't learned how to be proper gatekeepers of the new media landscape which allows individuals to be manipulated in protective bubbles of disinformation and lies. Or perhaps the situation is just what you expect periodically from modified monkeys with brains formed in the Pleistocene.

But hate, anger, disinformation, conspiracy theories, and lies have gone mainstream, especially with the rise of right-wing media over the last twenty years, a situation exacerbated by the Trump administration. Let's hope this is a passing phase, for it is a dangerous one. The anger, hatred, and division sown by right-wing fanatics, along with their attacks on expertise, science, education, tolerance, and the liberal values that help humans escape the Dark Ages, is taking its toll. And a society divorced from science and truth, from tolerance, justice, and fairness, is not a place where humans will flourish. In fact, in an increasingly complex world we need to have faith in experts more than ever.

For more detail on each stage, here are some quotes from Stanton's document:

1. CLASSIFICATION:

"All cultures have categories to distinguish people into "us and them" by ethnicity, race, religion, or nationality … The main preventive measure at this early stage is to develop universalistic institutions that transcend ethnic or racial divisions, that actively promote tolerance and understanding, and that promote classifications that transcend the divisions … This search for common ground is vital to early prevention of genocide."

2. SYMBOLIZATION:

"We give names or other symbols to the classifications … and apply the symbols to members of groups … When combined with hatred, symbols may be forced upon unwilling members of pariah groups … To combat symbolization, hate symbols can be legally forbidden (swastikas) as can hate speech. Group marking … can be outlawed … The problem is that legal limitations will fail if unsupported by popular cultural enforcement …"

3. DISCRIMINATION:

"A dominant group uses law, custom, and political power to deny the rights of other groups. The powerless group may not be accorded full civil rights or even citizenship … Prevention against discrimination means full political empowerment and citizenship rights for all groups in a society. Discrimination on the basis of nationality, ethnicity, race or religion should be outlawed …"

4. DEHUMANIZATION:

"One group denies the humanity of the other group. Members of it are equated with animals, vermin, insects or diseases. Dehumanization overcomes the normal human revulsion against murder. At this stage, hate propaganda in print and on hate radios is used to vilify the victim group … Local and international leaders should condemn the use of hate speech and make it culturally unacceptable … Hate radio stations should be shut down, and hate propaganda banned. Hate crimes and atrocities should be promptly punished."

5. ORGANIZATION:

Genocide is always organized, usually by the state, often using militias to provide deniability of state responsibility … Sometimes organization is informal … or decentralized … Special army units or militias are often trained and armed. Plans are made for genocidal killings. To combat this stage, membership in these militias should be outlawed."

6. POLARIZATION:

"Extremists drive the groups apart. Hate groups broadcast polarizing propaganda … Extremist terrorism targets moderates, intimidating and silencing the center … Prevention may mean security protection for moderate leaders or assistance to human rights groups."

7. PREPARATION:

"National or perpetrator group leaders plan the "Final Solution"… They often use euphemisms to cloak their intentions, such as referring to their goals as "ethnic cleansing," "purification," or "counter-terrorism." They build armies, buy weapons and train their troops and militias. They indoctrinate the populace with fear of the victim group. Leaders often claim that "if we don't kill them, they will kill us."

8. PERSECUTION:

"Victims are identified and separated out because of their ethnic or religious identity. Death lists are drawn up. In state-sponsored genocide, members of victim groups may be forced to wear identifying symbols. Their property is often expropriated. Sometimes they are even segregated into ghettos, deported into concentration camps, or confined to a famine-struck region and starved. Genocidal massacres begin."

9. EXTERMINATION:

Extermination begins, and quickly becomes the mass killing legally called "genocide." It is "extermination" to the killers because they do not believe their victims to be fully human. When it is sponsored by the state, the armed forces often work with militias to do the killing. Sometimes the genocide results in revenge killings by groups against each other, creating the downward whirlpool-like cycle of bilateral genocide …"

10. DENIAL:

"is the final stage that lasts throughout and always follows a genocide. It is among the surest indicators of further genocidal massacres. The perpetrators of genocide dig up the mass graves, burn the bodies, try to cover up the evidence and intimidate the witnesses. They deny that they committed any crimes, and often blame what happened on the victims. They block investigations of the crimes, and continue to govern until driven from power by force, when they flee into exile. There they remain with impunity, like Pol Pot or Idi Amin, unless they are captured and a tribunal is established to try them."

---

[1] from the Genocide Education Process
[2] from "Ten Stages of Genocide"

Liked it? Take a second to support Dr John Messerly on Patreon!

BECOME A PATRON

Share this:

Facebook Reddit Twitter Tumblr More

Could Rhetoric in the USA Lead to Genocide?	Should We Believe in Progressive Cosmic Evolution?	Cosmic Evolution and the Meaning of Life
July 2, 2020	February 26, 2014	December 30, 2020
With 2 comments	In "Evolution & Philosophy"	With 11 comments

← *Eric Hoffer's The True Believer and Trump*

Review of "Exile Nation: The Plastic People" →

11 thoughts on "Summary of 10 Stages of Genocide (and the USA today)"

Chris Crawford

September 12, 2017 at 3:01 pm

I think that you err in including the requirement for identification in the category of Symbolization. It seems to me that the category is confined to swastikas, burning crosses, that sort of thing.

Moreover, I believe — none too firmly — that personal identification should be universal in America. I have gone through the many arguments and have plopped down on the side of the ID people. Perhaps this would make a good topic for a future essay.

Jim Rogers

September 13, 2017 at 1:36 pm

This post is both excellent and disquieting. About the only thing I would add is that the groups currently under threat include some religious minorities, such as Jews and Muslims.

Quite by coincidence, I've recently been reading about the history of a county in Iowa, written by a local historian in the early 1900s. It could have been written about almost any county in any of the plains states. Some of the key steps of the genocide that you describe against the Native Americans is clearly evident in the unapologetic writing of the author: the land was "habited only by wild beasts and savage men" (step 4, dehumanizing); the "aborigines who claimed the land, would be exterminated or driven westward by a superior race" (step 8, extermination); and "the story of the conquest is an enchanting one" (step 10, denial). Most of the ordinary people who worked hard and developed this country came after the genocide happened, but they (and their descendants, including most Americans) were the beneficiaries of that brutal policy toward Native Americans, which happened not only in the plains states, but pretty much everywhere in the U.S. It is hard to be proud of our heritage with that dark cloud hanging over our heads.

mess1955

September 13, 2017 at 4:52 pm

There really isn't much to be proud of. America won't ever be healed until they deal honestly with their racist past.

mess1955

September 13, 2017 at 4:56 pm

Not sure if I've interpreted symbolization correctly. Not sure what you mean by ID, although it is obviously made difficult to obtain for certain people so they can't vote for example. Of course we all have ID and perhaps your argument is that we'd all be better with national ID cards. I don't know much abou this topic though.

Mick

July 1, 2019 at 3:48 pm

My interpretation of symbolization is that it means identification which clearly and publicly identifies who is "us" and who is "them".

For example, the Nazi wore their swastikas and they forced Jewish people to wear the Star of David.

Mick

July 1, 2019 at 3:59 pm

Symbolization also means identification which the state can use to identify and target anyone who they deem is them.

Again, think of the cliche movie nazi – "Show me your papers!"

Mick

July 1, 2019 at 4:04 pm

Some current examples of symbolization:
MAGA hats
The infamous tiki torches
Orange jumpsuits at Gitmo

noneofurbuzz

December 15, 2019 at 11:49 pm

very very sad but very very true

Buffalo Birdie

June 8, 2020 at 2:28 am

This misses one important psychological motivation which I think should could come as precursor to #1 or near the top, and that is collective resentment and desire for revenge against a certain group. Nazi Germany was started due to extreme desire for revenge for having 'given in' to WW1. Along with that came an intense hatred and resentment of Jews who came to be hated as a group for their wealth and success which was conversely perceived to be to the detriment to Germany and Germans. This last part seems particularly similar to the current building of resentment, and in some cases increasing hatred towards all whites as a group, seen as automatically privileged due to their race and as one collective oppressor. This is worrisome, and is from the opposite angle of your post. Hate can be unleashed in any direction from any group upon another. We have to be alert and looking in all directions for the warning signs.

Not left or right but Independent

October 2, 2021 at 4:19 pm

It seems your paper is no different than the Trump
Admin as it perpetuates the "us vs. them" mentality. Every single example cites the Trump Admin or right-wing groups as the problem. It seems to lack merit as this us clearly biased toward one side thus lacking clear objectivity.
It's also happening more with vaccinated vs unvaccinated. We re literally going to have to show papers pretty soon. No matter which side we are on, we should all agree the other side to have freedom to choose what's best for them regardless of the topic however much we may disagree.

John Messerly

October 3, 2021 at 7:44 am

Awesome. I choose to drive drunk you don't. I choose to shoot people with my assault weapon you don't. No problem, I have the freedom to choose!

And being objective doesn't mean that you have to say that round earth and flat earth theories are equivalent. Yes, I'm biased toward round earth theory!

Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Comment

Name *

Email *

Website

☐ Notify me of new posts by email.

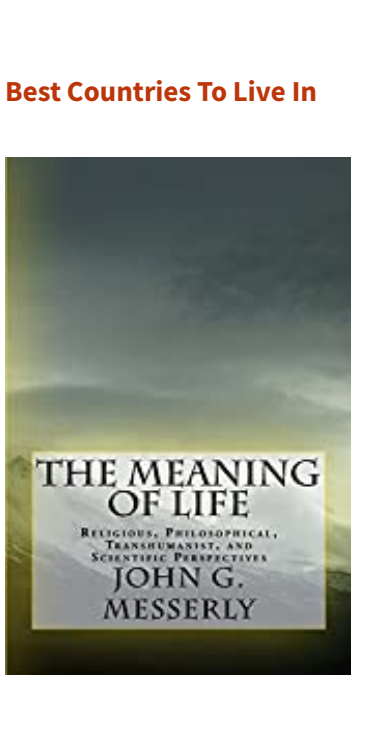
Post Comment

This site uses Akismet to reduce spam. Learn how your comment data is processed.

Support Dr John Messerly on Patreon!

BECOME A PATRON

Best Countries To Live In



THE MEANING OF LIFE
Religious, Philosophical, Transhumanist, and Scientific Perspectives
JOHN G. MESSERLY

History Pics(Mature Eyes Only)
Ad Reference

Blarney Woollen Mills
Ad Blarney Woollen Mills

"The Last Days" A Documentary…
reasonandmeaning.com

Celebs That Ruined Their Looks
Ad Gazillions

Summary and Meaning of…
reasonandmeaning.com

Summary of Freud's Basic Ideas
reasonandmeaning.com

Marcus Aurelius On Getting Out Of Bed
reasonandmeaning.com

The Meaning of Tennyson's…
reasonandmeaning.com

Summary of Maslow on Self-…
reasonandmeaning.com

Best Books on History
reasonandmeaning.com

Summary of Tolstoy's, The…
reasonandmeaning.com

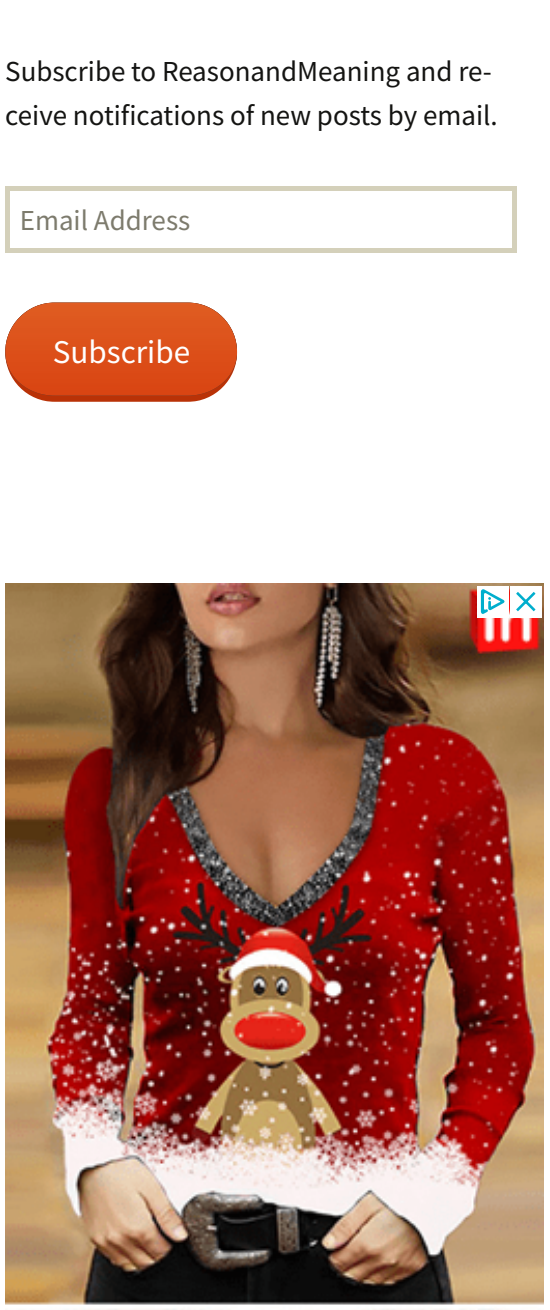
What is Fallibilism?
reasonandmeaning.com

How Democracies Die: Trump and…
reasonandmeaning.com

Subscribe to ReasonandMeaning and receive notifications of new posts by email.

Email Address

Subscribe



Top Posts

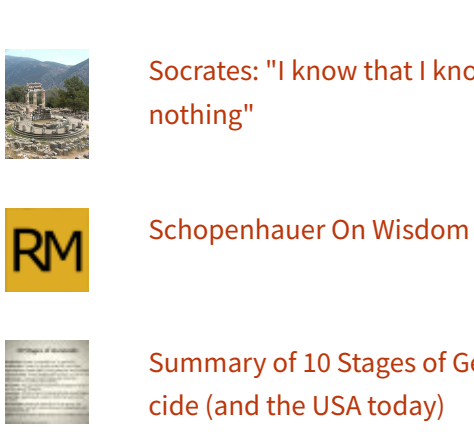
- Summary of Bill Joy's, "Why the future doesn't need us,"
- Aristotle on the Good Life
- Socrates: "I know that I know nothing"
- Schopenhauer On Wisdom
- Summary of 10 Stages of Genocide (and the USA today)

Follow me on Twitter

Tweets by @hume1955

John G. Messerly
@hume1955

washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/…



Opinion | Republicans define…
A party rots from within.
washingtonpost.com

2h

Embed View on Twitter

Categories

Select Category

Archives

Select Month

September 2017

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

« Aug Oct »

Recent Posts

- Schopenhauer On Wisdom
- Psychologists say a good life doesn't have to be happy, or even meaningful
- Buddha and the Universe
- More Great Essays
- Children and Happiness

Categories

- Abortion
- Abortion – Classics
- Advice
- Aging
- Announcements
- Anxiety-Depression
- Aristotle
- Atheism
- Beauty
- Best Countries
- Bioethics
- Book Favorites
- Book Favorites – Personal
- Book Review – Baggini
- Book Reviews – Cosmic Evolution
- Book Reviews – Ethics
- Book Reviews – Meaning of Life/Science
- Book Reviews – Philosophy
- Book Reviews – Politics
- Book Reviews – Religion
- Book Reviews – Science
- Book Reviews – Writing
- Book Reviews-Futurism
- Book Reviews-Meaning of Life
- Buddhism
- Climate/Environment
- Commencent Speeches
- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Critical Thinking – Basics
- Cryonics
- Darwin
- Death
- Death – Essays of the Dying
- Death & Meaning
- Death & Philosophy
- Death & Technology
- Death-Personal
- Durant – Will
- Eastern Philosophy
- Economics
- Economics – Piketty
- Education
- Epistemology
- Ethics – Contractarianism
- Ethics – Deontology
- Ethics – Enhancement
- Ethics – Evolution
- Ethics – Existentialism
- Ethics – General
- Ethics – Natural Law
- Ethics – Relativism
- Ethics – Religion
- Ethics – Utilitarianism
- Ethics-Popular
- Euthanasia
- Evolution – Cultural
- Evolution & Futurism
- Evolution & Meaning
- Evolution & Philosophy
- Evolutionary Biology
- Existential Risk
- Existentialism
- Fallibilism/Skepticism
- Feminism
- Firearms
- Free Press
- free speech
- Free Will
- Freedom
- Futurism
- Futurism – Warnings
- Game Theory
- Genocide
- Happiness
- Health
- Hinduism
- History
- Hope
- Hope – Other Views
- Human Nature-Philosophical
- Human Nature-Religious
- Human Nature-Scientific
- Humanism
- Hume
- Humor
- Immortality
- Justice
- Kant
- Kazantzakis
- Literature
- Literature – Famous Lines
- Love
- Meaning of Life
- Meaning of Life – Agnostic
- Meaning of Life – Astronomy
- Meaning of Life – Classics
- Meaning of Life – Death
- Meaning of Life – Evolution
- Meaning of Life – Ind. Answers
- Meaning of Life – Nihilism
- Meaning of Life – Objective
- Meaning of Life – Others
- Meaning of Life – Personal
- Meaning of Life – Readers
- Meaning of Life – Religion
- Meaning of Life – Religion – Classics
- Meaning of Life – Subjective
- Meaning of Life – The Basics
- Meaning of Life – Work/Love
- Meaning of Life-Science
- Media
- Mind Uploading
- Moral Enhancement
- Movies
- Movies – Documentary
- Multiple Articles
- Music
- Music – About Time
- Music-About Time
- Nature
- Nihilism
- Optimism
- Pandemics
- Personal
- Personal – Academic
- Personal – Grandchildren
- Personal – Notifications
- Personal – Parents
- Personal – Wife
- Philosophy – History of
- Philosophy of Mind
- Philosophy of Religion
- Philosophy-Academic
- Philosophy-Popular
- Philosophy-Process
- Plato
- Poetry
- Poetry – American
- Poetry & Death – American
- Poetry and Death
- Politics – 2016Election –

Archives

- November 2021
- October 2021
- September 2021
- August 2021
- July 2021
- June 2021
- May 2021
- April 2021
- March 2021
- February 2021
- January 2021
- December 2020
- November 2020
- October 2020
- September 2020
- August 2020
- July 2020
- June 2020
- May 2020
- April 2020
- March 2020
- February 2020
- January 2020
- December 2019
- November 2019
- October 2019
- September 2019
- August 2019
- July 2019
- June 2019
- May 2019
- April 2019
- March 2019
- February 2019
- January 2019
- December 2018
- November 2018
- October 2018
- September 2018
- August 2018
- July 2018
- June 2018
- May 2018
- April 2018
- March 2018
- February 2018
- January 2018
- December 2017
- November 2017
- October 2017
- September 2017
- August 2017
- July 2017
- June 2017
- May 2017
- April 2017
- March 2017
- February 2017
- January 2017
- December 2016
- November 2016
- October 2016
- September 2016
- August 2016
- July 2016
- June 2016
- May 2016
- April 2016
- March 2016
- February 2016
- January 2016
- December 2015
- November 2015
- October 2015
- September 2015
- August 2015
- July 2015
- June 2015
- May 2015
- April 2015
- March 2015
- February 2015
- January 2015
- December 2014
- November 2014
- October 2014
- September 2014
- August 2014
- July 2014
- June 2014
- May 2014
- April 2014
- March 2014
- February 2014
- January 2014
- December 2013

- Politics – 2016Election – Warning
- Politics – 2020 Election
- Politics – Authoritarianism
- Politics – General
- Politics – Science
- Politics – Trump & Republicans
- Politics – Truth
- Politics – Tyranny
- presocratics
- Prison Reform
- Psychology
- Racism
- Religion
- Religion – The Future
- Robotics
- Russell
- Sagan – Carl
- Sartre
- Schopenhauer
- Science
- Science & Philosophy
- Science & Religion
- Science & Technology
- Sexual Ethics
- Skepticism
- Socrates
- Solitude
- Sports
- Star Trek
- Stoicism
- Superintelligence
- Time
- Transcendence
- Transhumanism
- Transhumanism – Politics
- Transhumanism – Religion
- Truth
- Uncategorized
- Weather
- Wilson – Edward O
- Wisdom
- Work
- Work – Classics
- Writing

Proudly powered by WordPress

ZOLUCKY
— UP TO —
50% OFF
shop now